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Superintendent's Corner

Testing doesn't define our purpose

DR. JOSEPH M. SAWYER
SUPERINTENDENT

Over the past few years there has been a great deal of focus at the national and state level on the evolution of educational standards and testing in public education. Much of this has been focused on the political controversy connected with the development and adoption of the Common Core academic standards, the federal Race to the Top competitive grant funding that was provided to states (including Massachusetts), and the development of an updated approach to state standardized testing. As typically happens with complex public policy topics, much of the rhetoric has become oversimplified

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inside • pages 2, 3 & 4

New hires, new technology course, Colonial Fund Innovation Partner, volunteerism, enrollment and class size data

inside • pages 5, 6 & 7

Student test data and results, SHS Class of 2015 postgraduate plans, Superintendent Awards



Pictured above are students ready to accept recycling at the Sherwood and Oak Middle Schools recycling drive. See "Volunteerism" story on page 3.

“The highest reward for a man's toil is not what he gets for it but what he becomes by it.”

~ John Ruskin ~



Pictured above is SHS senior, Doug Fisher, at left, with freshman, Alexa Beer, at right. They are troubleshooting an issue related to a student iPad. See full story called, "Student Innovation Team learns by doing" on page 4 about the newly added Student Innovation Team (SIT).

The Colonial Way

MR. JOHN R. SAMIA
SCHOOL COMMITTEE CHAIR

At a recent meeting, student athletes from Shrewsbury High School made an outstanding presentation to the School Committee. During their presentation, these young men and women kept referring to the way that they conduct themselves as the "Colonial Way." The Colonial Way is a high standard encompassing many qualities such as leadership, accountability, mentoring, a constant desire to learn and improve, pride, and selfless teamwork which distinguishes our students.

There is no doubt that teaching is one of the most demanding, yet rewarding, professions today. Success in education requires broad knowledge in many areas, including subject matter, curriculum, technology, learning standards and ever changing legal mandates, ongoing-professional development, a

love for the profession, knowledge of discipline and classroom management techniques, and most importantly, a strong desire to make a difference in the lives of young people.

Shrewsbury educators consistently demonstrate the knowledge, skill, energy, talent and compassion for our students requisite to be a great educator. By every measurement of success, our teachers have made an incredible impact on our children and the accomplishments are numerous.

Some of the accomplishments of our district over the past year include:

- The Center for American Progress ranked our district among the top 1.8% of over 7,000 districts in the nation for "return on education investment."
- Newsweek Magazine recently ranked Shrewsbury High School in the top 1% of all U.S. high schools in its attempt to identify those that "do the

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Superintendent's Corner

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and polarizing (and sometimes flat out inaccurate), as various political factions have staked out their positions on these issues. As our state just made a major decision regarding the pathway forward regarding standardized testing, I will attempt here to provide the community with an overview of our school district's approach and how it connects to what the government requires of us.

The Shrewsbury School Committee's strategic priorities and goals emphasize the need for our schools to meet our district's mission of providing the skills and knowledge

“The state testing program is not and should not become the primary focus of our work.”

needed for success in a rapidly changing and demanding 21st century environment. As a result, we have been raising our expectations for what our students must be able to do with what they know, including analyzing what they read in more sophisticated ways, solving problems of increased complexity, and writing with greater precision and clarity. Our intent is to enhance an already very strong educational program, with the goal of empowering learners with the essential skills of communication, critical thinking, collaboration, and creativity, while providing students with the opportunities to acquire and apply these skills in a digital environment

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Shrewsbury School Journal

The non-profit Shrewsbury School Journal is published three times a year and reaches every household in the diverse and growing town of Shrewsbury. It is published by the central office of the Shrewsbury Public Schools with the help and expertise of many individuals. The mission of the Shrewsbury School Journal is to provide an accurate source of information about our school system and the town in which we live. We hope to foster a community of continuous learners.

Dr. Joseph M. Sawyer
Superintendent

Kimberlee Cantin
Project Coordinator/Designer

Welcome to our new hires!

BARBARA A. MALONE
DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Over the summer, the district successfully completed the hiring process to fill key positions within the district. These positions were hired to address our need for more counseling and nursing support, including a Director of Nursing, address mandated needs for the Special Education Department, replace teachers who resigned or retired, and to replace a very small number of non-renewals. In addition to these appointments some educators have transferred to different positions within the district for the 2015/2016 school year. As of opening day on September 1, 2015 we had appointed 38 professional positions (excluding the internal transfers) and 32 paraprofessional positions. We also continue to appoint individuals to other roles within the district, such as long-term substitute teacher roles for maternity or paternity leaves. As is typical at this time of the year we are still filling a small number of paraprofessional roles throughout the district and are beginning our searches for long-term substitute teachers for leaves that will occur later in the school year.

Professional Staff

Included among the 38 professional staff hired is the new Director of Special Education for Oak Middle School, Dr. Iris Miller, who is replacing the previous director who retired at the end of last year, our first Director of Nursing for the District, Noelle Freeman, and the return of Patrick Collins to the District in the role of Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations. Nine of the 39 positions were for part-time roles in areas such as Foreign Language, Physical Education, Nursing, and Adjustment Counselors. The other 30 positions were full-time roles.

The teacher selection process in Shrewsbury is rigorous, and through the hard work of our

District Leadership Team, as well as educators, parents and students who volunteered to be part of selection meetings or demonstration lessons, we have adhered to our high standards.

The process included interviews with principals, department directors, curriculum coordinators/instructional coaches, teachers, parents, and central office administrators. At the high school level, students also served on the interview teams.

All teaching positions require a demonstration lesson in the classroom, which is a key ingredient in the selection and hiring process. All candidates recommended for hire are also required to interview with the Director of Human Resources and the Superintendent of Schools as the final step in the selection process, where our mission and core values are discussed individually with each finalist. A thorough reference check is conducted on each new hire, including the “CORI” (Massachusetts background check) and the “SAFIS” (national fingerprint-based FBI background check).

We continued to use www.schoolspring.com as our primary sourcing tool, which netted 994 applicants to our professional level positions. This means that about 3.8% of those who applied to our professional positions ultimately received a position with us this year. Last year, which was a very atypical year due to the override, the percentage was closer to 2%.

Principals, directors and selection committees reviewed these application packets. Some applicants were selected for phone interviews, and then an even smaller number invited for face-to-face interviews and their teaching demonstration lessons. References were contacted, which resulted in the finalist recommendations. Our new professional educators completed two days of orientation on August 27 and August 28 and a mentor has been assigned and agreed to assist each one for the entire upcoming year.

Paraprofessional Positions

As of September 1 we had hired 32 paraprofessional positions. These positions netted 737 applicants. This means that we hired 4.3% of those who applied to our paraprofessional positions (Last year it was 3.3%). These applicants also underwent a rigorous selection process, which included applicant packet screening, phone and face to face interviews, reference checks, the CORI background check, and the national FBI background check (fingerprints).

Administrative Support and Extended School Care Positions

As of September 1 we had hired three administrative support positions, two to replace retiring secretaries, and one for a part-time school counseling support position funded in the budget, for the 2015-2016 school year. In addition there were two promotions within the Extended School Care Program. In closing, the Shrewsbury Public Schools continues its longstanding excellent reputation as a collaborative and desirable district in which to work.

New hires at the district level:



Patrick C. Collins

Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations
Master of Business Administration, University of Massachusetts, Boston
Bachelor of Business Administration, University of Notre Dame

CONTINUED, see page 5

Beal awaits an invitation

Patrick C. Collins
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT
FOR FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

In April 2015, the School Committee and Board of Selectmen voted to submit an application to the Massachusetts School Building Authority [MSBA] for funding to resolve the space and building condition issues at the 93-year-old Beal School. The MSBA indicates that they received 97 applications for funding and expect to fund approximately fifteen projects statewide in this cycle.

We expect to be notified in late January 2016 if we are one of those fifteen projects and invited into the so-called “Eligibility Phase”. If we are invited, then the town will have a relatively short period of time to appropriate funds for a Feasibility Study which would develop building

and space configuration options with the advice and input of many professionals. Costs for a Feasibility Study and the project itself would be eligible for state reimbursement. As a reference point, the Sherwood Middle School project received 54.16% MSBA reimbursement.



A big boost for innovation

MICHELLE BISCOTTI &
KATHLEEN KEOHANE
CO-COORDINATORS FOR DEVELOPMENT
AND VOLUNTEER SERVICES

Shrewsbury Federal Credit Union (SFCU) has generously donated \$5,000 to the Shrewsbury Public Schools Colonial Fund. SFCU has also pledged to match individual donations up to another \$5,000, making them the Colonial Fund's first Innovation Partner.

Our district has long benefited from Shrewsbury Federal Credit Union's generosity. Every year, they quietly donate what amounts to thousands of dollars to a variety of school-based groups, PTOs, clubs and teams. This additional donation is their first contribution to the Colonial Fund to support high impact innovations across the entire district.

"As long-time supporters of the Shrewsbury Public Schools, we are excited to be the initial sponsor of the Colonial Fund this year. We look to partner with the schools and the community to foster innovation and enrich learning across the district."

– Jim Dupont, President & CEO, Shrewsbury Federal Credit Union

"We are very grateful to Shrewsbury Federal Credit Union for their generous support of our schools. Their support of the Colonial Fund will help our schools do the critically important work of preparing students for a successful future in a rapidly changing world."

– Joe Sawyer, Superintendent, Shrewsbury Public Schools

The Colonial Fund was established in 2013 to bring high impact innovations to our schools that will further prepare our students for the demands of today's colleges and careers in the 21st century global marketplace.

Over the past two years, Colonial Fund dollars helped fund the 4th grade digital classroom pilot, the purchase of interactive whiteboards in our elementary schools, and enhancements to the WiFi network at Shrewsbury High School to allow all students and staff to use iPads this year.

Later this school year, the Colonial Fund will be sponsoring a film and speaker series for parents, students, and the community at large. This series will bring together leaders from higher education and the business community to discuss the changing dynamics of today's global marketplace and how Shrewsbury Public Schools can best prepare our students at all grade levels. Look for more informa-

tion about this important series in mid-January.

Our goal is to grow the Colonial Fund so that it will enhance the education of Shrewsbury students for years to come. With your help, we can make this goal a reality. Shrewsbury Federal Credit Union's generous offer to match all individual donations up to \$5,000 will double the impact of your gift and could bring an additional \$15,000 to fund innovative projects in our schools.

For more information about the Colonial Fund and the projects it supports, go to:

<http://schools.shrewsburyma.gov/future>.

There you will also find links to the Colonial Fund on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.

For more information about Shrewsbury Federal Credit Union and the services they provide in our community go to:

<http://shrewsburycu.com>



Pictured above are Mr. Jim Dupont, President & CEO, Shrewsbury Federal Credit Union shaking hands with Joe Sawyer, Superintendent, in celebration of their announcement to be the first Innovation Partner for Shrewsbury Public Schools Colonial Fund.

Superintendent's Corner

CONTINUED from page 2

that is both their current and future reality.

This is important work that we would want to do regardless of what the state might require of us through its accountability system, which will be changing from the MCAS tests to an updated exam system. This new system, described as a hybrid between the MCAS and

"We will keep our focus on providing an education that will benefit our students for the long run"

the newer PARCC exam, and which will be ultimately required to be administered digitally, is scheduled to be implemented in 2017. It is widely believed that this new exam will mostly reflect the newer PARCC test. We anticipated this shift in the state's approach to standardized testing, as reflected in the School Committee's strategic plan adopted four years ago, and this is a key reason we chose to administer the PARCC exam last year. As a result of the strategic work we have accomplished, we are in a strong position to adapt to the state's new approach.

However, the state testing program is not and should not become the primary focus of our work. Rather, it is an assessment tool that can be useful to help us accomplish our mission. We hope that the new state test provides valuable feedback that helps us improve teaching and learning, which should be the main purpose of any test. While we will always be subject to state and national policies regarding district, school, and educator accountability systems, our goal in Shrewsbury is not to achieve high test scores, per se. Test results can be a good measure of progress and performance, if the test is a good one, but the pursuit of test scores as an end unto itself creates the risk of missing the bigger picture of what education should be. In Shrewsbury, we will keep our focus on providing an education that will benefit our students for the long run, so that they gain strong academic knowledge, skills and habits, in an environment that emphasizes physical, social, and emotional health, so that Shrewsbury's young people become citizens who make positive contributions to their community and the world.

Priceless volunteer contributions

MICHELLE BISCOTTI &
KATHLEEN KEOHANE
CO-COORDINATORS FOR DEVELOPMENT
AND VOLUNTEER SERVICES

Thank you to the many volunteers who have already given countless hours to support our schools. Their contributions vary greatly but are truly priceless. Not only do volunteers help our schools accomplish specific tasks but they are wonderful examples to our students of the importance of giving back.



Chef Rick Araujo demonstrating the use of olive oil to a SHS Family & Consumer Sciences class.

**Volunteers don't get paid,
not because they are worthless,
but because they are priceless.**

~ Sherry Anderson ~



In the photo above, parents, students and community members are helping to beautify the grounds at Spring Street School earlier this year.



To the left is AnneMarie Bird, a former Spring Street School parent, ready to speak to students about her time in the Navy during a special event that highlights the veterans among us.

Colonial Way

CONTINUED from page 1

absolute best job of preparing students for college.”

- Shrewsbury High School recently earned a silver medal from U.S. News & World Report as part of the publication’s annual ranking, placing it in the top 3.6% of over 19,000 eligible high schools throughout the country included in the study.
- Shrewsbury Public School students continue to give thousands of hours of community service.
- Throughout the district, Shrewsbury students continue to earn many awards and championships in academics, the visual arts, music, drama, speech and debate, robotics, mathematics, science and engineering and athletics.

But as you well know, education is much greater than standardized tests, statistics and accolades. Education is about improving the whole person, which is what our educators do so well on a daily basis.

While their title may be teacher, administrator or paraprofessional, they do far more. Our educators serve as coaches, role models, advisors and friends. They attend games, plays, concerts, speech and debate tournaments and other events. Many educators silently give of themselves to help students that many would never know are in need of help.

All of these important roles do not go unnoticed, particularly by our students. You see, the “Colonial Way” is modeled after what our educators do without fanfare on a daily basis both in and out of the classroom.

The passion that they show for teaching and the love that they show to their profession, their students, and the community are appreciated. Shrewsbury is fortunate to have such a skilled and dedicated group of educators, carrying the torch for learning, innovation and growth.

I am truly excited to hear about new accomplishments and the continued success of our district, educators, and students for years to come.

Wishing you and your family a healthy and happy holiday season and a great 2016!

Student Innovation Team learns by doing

VESSELIN PORTEV
SHS STUDENT CLASS OF 2016

The SHS 1:1 iPad digital learning initiative has been the biggest project that this school has implemented in some time. In order to make the project a success, cooperation between faculty and students was and is a necessity. To promote the initiative and in order to implement its smooth transition into the school and curriculum, the Student Innovation Team (SIT) was created. It is a class taken by the students and for the students in which day-to-day technology issues are resolved by the student members of the course. This class works as the student body of the IT department. They learn crucial skills necessary for careers related to customer service and computer science as well as information tech-

nology. However, members of SIT are also learning a different skill that other courses do not offer: They are learning how to innovate. To succeed in the 21st-century economy, students must learn to analyze and solve problems, collaborate, persevere, take calculated

risks, and learn from failure, and this is the exact opportunity that SIT offers.

The Student Innovation Team is a program that is paramount to the success of the digital learning program

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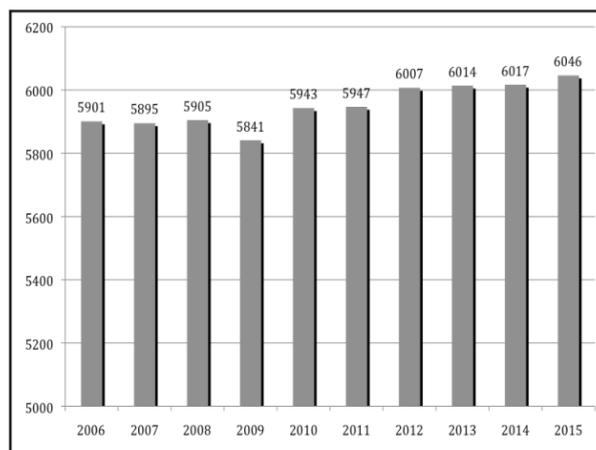
Pictured above are Chasia Molina, at left, and Simran Soin, at right, both SHS sophomores enrolled in the SIT course. They are answering requests for tech support from students and faculty at the SIT desk located in the high school media center.

Enrollment at all time high

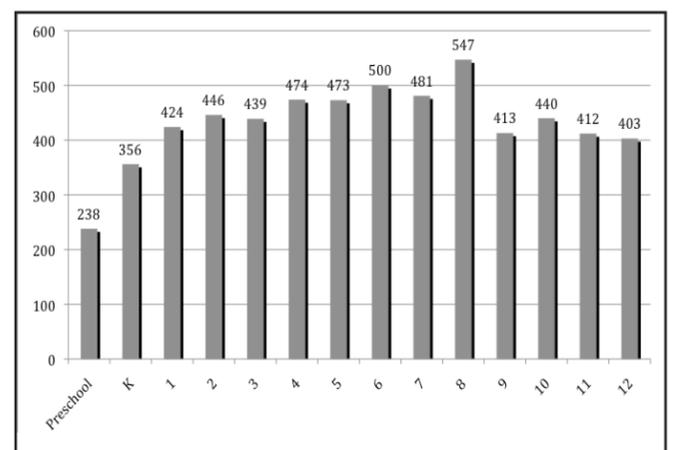
Each year the district reports its enrollment as of October 1. This year, the total district student population for grades preschool through high school hit a new all time high of 6,046. The graphs below illustrate information regarding enrollment history, grade-by-grade enrollment, and student ethnicity.

Thanks to the teaching staff added through the recent override, the vast majority of classes still remain within class size guidelines. For more details, see the reports on our website in the meeting documents section of the School Committee page

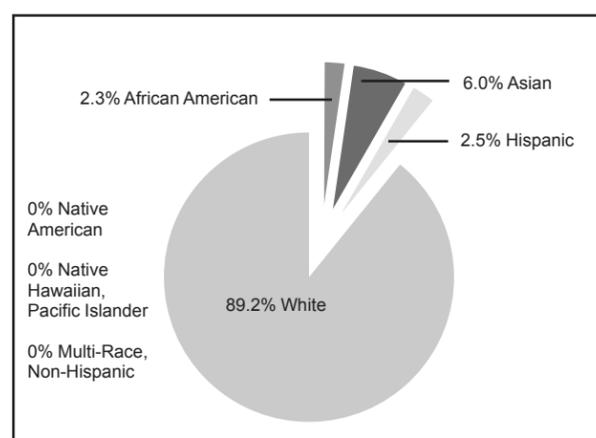
10 Year Enrollment History



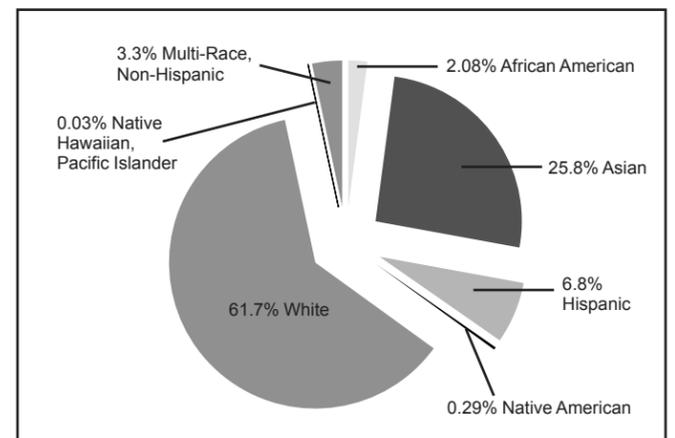
Current Enrollment by Grade



SPS Reported Ethnic Distribution: October 1993



SPS Reported Ethnic Distribution: October 2015



Welcome new hires continued from page 2



Noelle Freeman
Director of Nursing, PreK-12
Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Georgetown University



Dr. Iris L. Miller
Director of Special Education, Oak Middle School
Doctor of Clinical Psychology, Forest Institute of Professional Psychology
Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Social and Behavioral Sciences, S.U.N.Y. at Stony Brook
Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Communications, C.U.N.Y. at Queens College

New Educators

Shrewsbury High School

Stephen Arey
Special Education Teacher
Master of Science in Education, Simmons College
Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Framingham State University

Emily Bredberg
Media Specialist
Master of Library Science, University of North Texas
Bachelor of Film and Video Studies, University of Oklahoma

Jennifer Cuddy
Chemistry Teacher
Bachelor of Science in Psychology with Minors in Chemistry and Education, University of Massachusetts at Amherst

Bethany Dzivasen
Physical Education Teacher
Bachelor of Science in Health Education at Worcester State University

Steven Flahive
English Teacher
Master of Middle and Secondary Education in English,

Merrimack College
Bachelor of Arts in English, University of Massachusetts at Amherst

Lynne Rohstein
Special Education Teacher
Master of Special Education of Moderate Disabilities, American International College
Bachelor of Science in Earth Science, Worcester State University

Nick Splaine
English Teacher
Master of Secondary English, Emmanuel College
Bachelor of Arts in English, Boston College

Zac Tashjian
Biology Teacher
Master of Education, University of Massachusetts at Amherst
Bachelor of Science in Biology, University of Massachusetts at Amherst

Oak Middle School

Lisa Arteca
Nurse
Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Pennsylvania State University

Brianna Bisceglia
Science Teacher
Bachelor of Science in Biology, Chemistry and Middle School Education, Worcester State University

Laura Candelaria
Adjustment Counselor
Master of Social Work, Boston College
Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies, Worcester State University

Tara Francis
Nurse
Bachelor of Science in Animal Science, University of Florida
Associate of Science in Nursing, Quinsigamond Community College
Expected Bachelor of Science in Nursing November, 2015

Yusra Khan
Special Education Teacher
Master of Education, Simmons College
Bachelor of Arts in English, Simmons College

Daniel O'Brien
Social Studies Teacher
Master of Education, University of Massachusetts at Boston
Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, Boston College

Talene Orlando
Special Education Teacher
Bachelor of Special Education and Psychology, Marist College

Emily Palermo
Speech and Language Pathologist
Master of Speech-Language Pathology, Worcester State University

Bachelor of Communication Disorders and Human Services, Assumption College

Sherwood Middle School

Linda Berard
Nurse
Bachelor of Science in Nursing, D'Youville College of Buffalo, New York

Gretchen Martinez
Special Education Teacher, Intensive Learning Center
Master of Education in Severe Special Education and Applied Behavior Analysis, Endicott College
Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, Ithaca College

Carmen "Cecelia" Moquete
Spanish Teacher
Master of Education with Spanish Concentration, Worcester State University
Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies, Fitchburg State University

Carrie Peacock
Math/Science Teacher
Master of Business Administration, Lehigh University
Bachelor of Chemical Engineering, Cornell University

Hannah Rosen
English Language Arts/Social Studies Teacher
Bachelor of English and French, Stonehill College

LeeAnn Sinclair
English Language Arts/Social Studies Teacher
Master of Educational Leadership, Framingham State University
Bachelor of Science in Unified Elementary and Special Education, Keuka College
Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, Keuka College

Amy Wallace
Adjustment Counselor
Master of Social Work, Boston College
Master of Special Education, Simmons College
Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, Saint Anselm College

All Elementary Schools

Christy Minton
Media Specialist
Master of Library and Information Science, University of Rhode Island
Bachelor of Arts in History, Worcester State University

Beal Early Childhood Center

Meridith Buono
Visual Arts Teacher
Bachelor of Arts in Visual Arts Education, Framingham State University

Kaitlyn "Kate" Farrand
ELC Coordinator

New hires

CONTINUED from article at left

Master of Elementary Education, Lesley College
Post-Baccalaureate in Elementary Education, Worcester State University
Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science, University of Massachusetts at Amherst

Coolidge School

Dr. Julia Holdren
Psychologist
Doctor of Clinical Psychology, Fielding Graduate University
Master of Science in Education, Bucknell University
Behavior Analytic Program and Certification, Pennsylvania State University
Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, Bucknell University

Floral Street School

Stephen Abramowitz
ESL/ELL Teacher
Master of Education in Elementary Education and English as a Second Language Certification, Lesley College
Master of Education in Jewish Education and Cantorial Ordination, Hebrew College
Bachelor of Arts in Communication, University of California at San Diego

Erin Finn
ELC Coordinator
BCBA Certificate Program, Elms College
C.A.G.S (Certificate in Advanced Graduate Studies), Administration-Principal Licensure, American International College
Master of Science in Severe Special Education, Simmons College
Bachelor of Arts in Education Psychology, minor in Dance, Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania

Paton School

Ben Pierce
Physical Education Teacher
Bachelor of Science in Physical Education, Springfield College

Lindsay O'Donnell
ELC Coordinator
Master of Science in Severe Special Education, Simmons College
Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, University of Massachusetts at Amherst

Spring Street School

Emily "Emma" Madsen
Special Education Teacher
Master of Education and C.A.G.S. in Special Education, Anna Maria College
Bachelor of Liberal Arts, University of Massachusetts at Lowell

Lauren Finacom
ELC Coordinator
Master of Science in Severe Special Education, Simmons College
Bachelor of Science in Communication Sciences and Disorders, Worcester State University

New hires

CONTINUED from page 5

Mia Whittemore
Visual Arts Teacher
*Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art Education,
Boston University*

Parker Road Preschool

Catherine Dowling
Preschool Teacher
*Bachelor of Education, Worcester College
of Higher Education, Worcester, United
Kingdom*

New Administrative Support Staff

Shrewsbury High School:
Martha Murphy, Secretary, School Counseling
Elizabeth Petkauskos, Main Office Secretary

Coolidge School:
Cathy Cairns, School Secretary

New Extended School Care Appointments:
Sarah Davies, Extended School Care Site Coordinator, Coolidge

Mary Rana, Assistant to the Director of Extended Learning

New Paraprofessional Staff

Shrewsbury High School:
Steven Johnson, Special Education Aide
Rob Petrin, Special Education Aide
Marcio Sabo, Special Education Aide

Oak Middle School:
Margaret Breault, ABA Technician
Sandra Crompton, Instructional Aide
Lisa Glickman, ABA Technician
Emma Nersessian, Instructional Aide
Amy Reidy, Instructional Aide

Sherwood Middle School:
Evan Baptista, Child Specific Aide
Stephanie Cannon, ABA Technician Assistant
Jodi Couture, Child Specific Aide
Caroline Current, Instructional Aide
Corynne Gildea, Child Specific Aide
Victoria Lemieux, Child Specific Aide
Carolyn Rocco, Instructional Aide
Julie Roderick, Child Specific Aide
Casey Sefton, ABA Technician

Beal Early Childhood Center:
Johnathan Clyde, Child Specific Aide
Jamie Delmonico, Child Specific Aide

Coolidge School:
Charlotte Nader, Child Specific Aide

Floral Street School:
Shelby Abrams, Child Specific Aide
Katherine Biegner, Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (shared with Spring Street)
Shelley Crowell, Media Aide
Caroline Donohoe, Literacy Tutor
Jodi Morrocco, ESL Tutor
Julie Rondinelli, Instructional Aide
Diane Schwab, Instructional Aide
Melissa Williams, Instructional Aide

Paton School:
Kaitlyn French, Instructional Aide

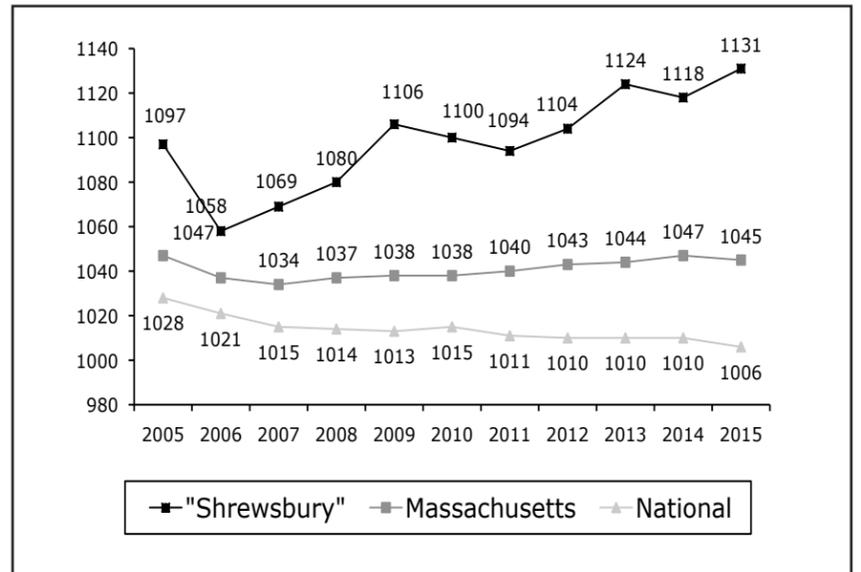
Spring Street School:
Katherine Biegner, COTA (shared with Floral Street)
Sarah Perreault, Instructional Aide
Kristina Smith, ABA Technician

Parker Road Preschool:
Alexis Gardner, ABA Technician

SHS student test scores on the rise

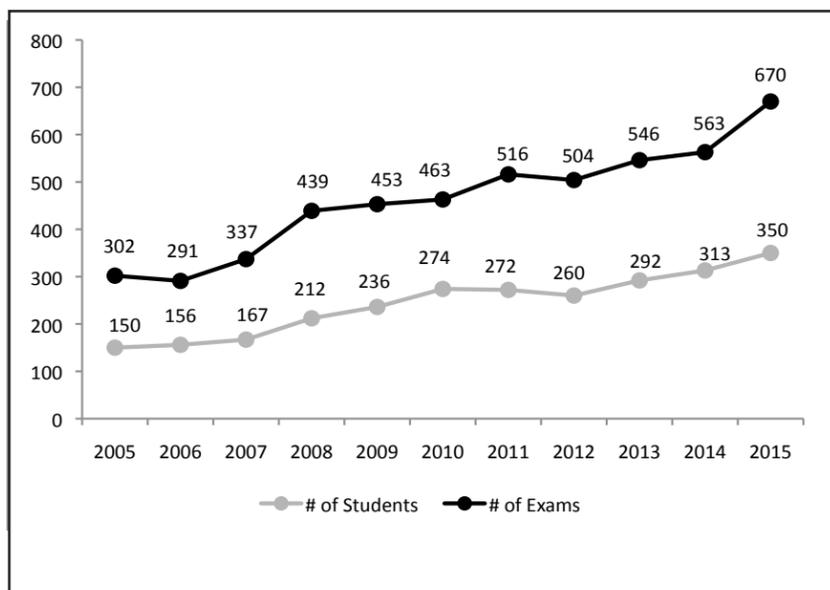
Mr. Todd Bazydlo, Principal, and Ms. Nga Huynh, Director of School Counseling at Shrewsbury High School recently reported on various standardized test results and participation rates for the 2014-2015 school year, which showed that SHS students continue to excel in comparison to state and national averages. Highlights included a 13 point increase in the SHS average score on the SAT I 1600 point scale for critical reading and math tests, combined with an extremely high 96% student participation rate.

**SAT I - 1600 Scale
Critical Reading & Math Combined**



Also impressive are the overall Advanced Placement (AP) exam scores, with nearly half of the students scoring a 5, the highest score possible, and over three-fourths of the students scoring a 4 or 5. Also outstanding is the total number of 124 AP Scholars, by far the most ever at SHS. There were 48 AP Scholars, 39 AP Scholars with Honors, and 37 AP Scholars with Distinction, two of whom also qualified as AP National Scholars. The figure at left demonstrates the large increase over time of the number of students participating in AP and the number of total exams taken by students.

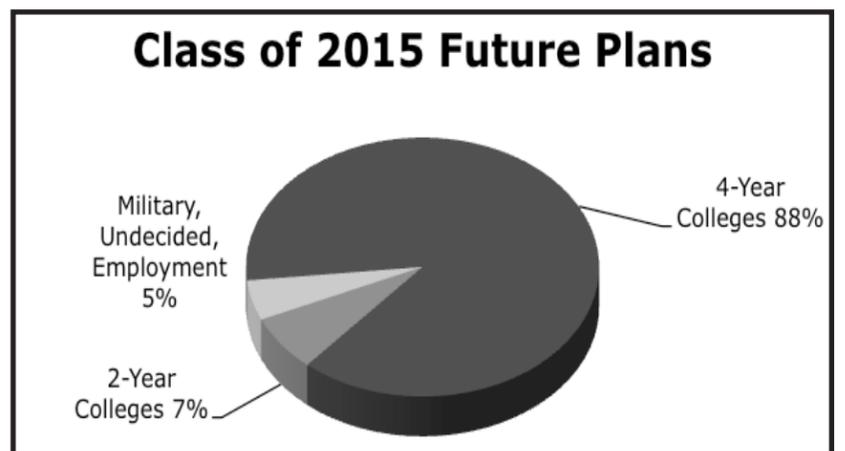
**SHS Students Enrolled in
Advanced Placement & Total Exams**



Class of 2015 future plans

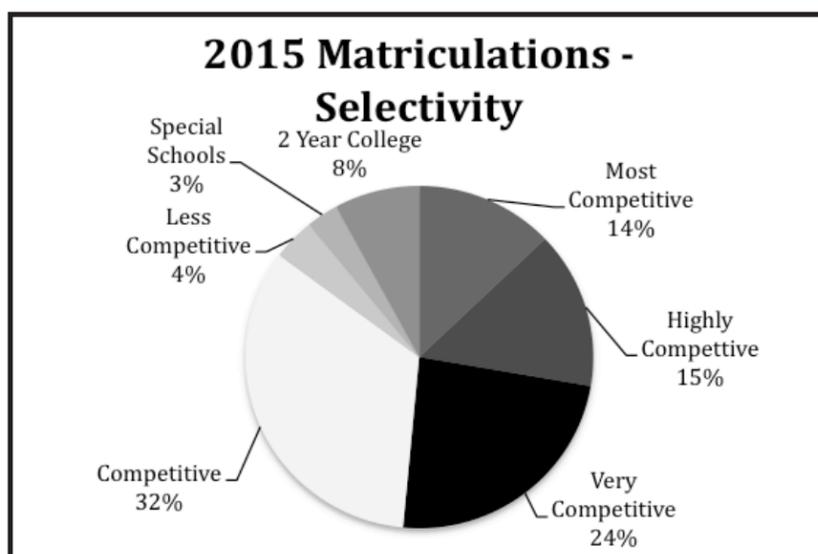
With the graduates from the Class of 2015 settled into the next phase of their lives, information on where they are now was presented to the School Committee by the high school administration. The post-high school plans of the Class of 2015 are outlined in the graphs to the right. An all-time high of 88% of graduates chose

Class of 2015 Future Plans



to attend four-year colleges. There was also a rise in the percentage of students matriculating at more competitive schools.

**2015 Matriculations -
Selectivity**



To find additional details, see the full reports that are available on our website in the meeting documents section of the School Committee page.

Central One sponsors athletics



Pictured above at center right is David L'Ecuyer, President/CEO of Central One Federal Credit Union, presenting a third consecutive annual donation of \$20,000 for SHS Athletics to Jason Costa, Athletic Director. Also pictured along with SHS student athletes is Todd Bazydlo, SHS Principal (far left) and Dr. Joseph Sawyer, Superintendent (far right).

Superintendent's Awards

Each year on the day prior to the first day of school, all SPS employees are gathered together for the annual opening meeting, which culminates with the announcement of the Superintendent's Awards, the Thomas M. Kennedy Award, and

the Jayne M. Wilkin award. This year the deserving recipients selected by Dr. Sawyer were a mix of staff members who have gone above and beyond to ensure our students are given every opportunity to succeed.



Pictured above are the award recipients. From left to right, they are Amy Prior, SHS Math Teacher; Jennifer Flemming, Second Grade Teacher, Coolidge School; Camille Viscomi, Second Grade Teacher, Paton School; Susan Conley, Instructional Coach/Curriculum Coordinator, Coolidge School; Joe Sawyer, Superintendent; David Lowy, Instructional Aide, Floral Street School; Bryan Mabie, Principal, Spring Street School, recipient of the Thomas M. Kennedy Award; Lisa Daly, Middle School Curriculum Coordinator for English Language Arts; Marylou Luukko, Foreign Language Teacher, Oak Middle School; Pamela LeBlanc, K-12 Director of Visual Arts, who was awarded the Jayne M. Wilkin Award; and Jean Brunell, SHS Family & Consumer Science teacher and Elementary Summer Enrichment Coordinator.

Educators attain professional status

In Massachusetts, educators are granted professional status (known elsewhere as tenure) after three years of successful performance in a district. While administrators cannot be granted professional status, the district also honored those who had completed three successful years in that role in Shrewsbury. The following educators were recognized for their accomplishment at a reception in October.

Shrewsbury High School

Todd Foster, Special Education Teacher
Nga Huynh, Director of School Counseling
Brittany McNally, Physical

Education Teacher

Liza Trombley, Director of English

Sherwood Middle School

Emily Broderick, Math & Science Teacher
Kristin Franger, Nurse

Coolidge School

Rebecca Cloyes, Grade 2 Teacher
Amy Loconsolo, Visual Arts Teacher
Marci Rubin, Kindergarten Teacher

Floral Street School

Cara Demoga, Psychologist
Lisa McCubrey, Principal
Tiffany Ostrander, Assistant Principal

Paton School

Keri Warwick, Special Education Teacher

Parker Road Preschool

Kristin Stewich, Nurse

District

Barbara Malone, Director of Human Resources

Thank you to the Parent Teacher Organizations and the Shrewsbury Education Association for their continued support and participation in this important event. We would also like to recognize and thank Danielson Flowers for graciously donating to the festivities.

Innovation

CONTINUED from page 4

at SHS. The team works in order to make sure that everyone can take full advantage of their iPads. It is incredible what the students are able to do for the school community as they use their tech know-how to help their peers and the faculty. SIT is the first line of defense for any issue related to the iPad, keyboard and apps. Students and faculty can create a ticket for a tech issue by emailing SIT at special email address. The tickets are then assigned to a member of the Student Innovation Team. During the month of September, 185 tickets were created and 158 of them were resolved. In October, 73 tickets were created and 89 were resolved, which included some from the previous month. Students and faculty can also stop by the SIT help desk in the Media Center during periods 3 through 7 and after school Monday through Thursday until 2:30 for help.

In addition to resolving issues, students work on various projects and learning assignments throughout the class. Under the direction of Ms. Tara Gauthier, the students in the class use the new online learning management system, Schoology, to post and manage their in-class assignments and discussions. Group projects that are currently underway include a digital citizenship lesson on "Think Before You Post" that is being created in conjunction with the TV Production class, public service announcements, project exemplars for teachers, and presentations that have recently included Schoology for Parent Access and AirServer for teachers.

One day per week each student is given a period of time to work on what is known as their ILE (Independent Learning Endeavor) in which they pursue a topic that they are passionate about in one of four areas: innovation, design, entrepreneurship, or applications. Some things that students are working on include learning how to program, cleaning out and fixing a computer, designing and baking a wedding cake from scratch, analyzing running form, and the stock market. Each week students blog about their progress on their ILEs, including both their successes and their struggles. At the end of the semester, students will have a product, program, and/or presentation to demonstrate what they learned.

Overall, the SIT program has been a resounding success in attaining its goals of assisting the IT department and developing the skills and abilities of its students.



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https://twitter.com/SPS_Supt

DISTRICT ACCOUNT:
<https://twitter.com/ShrewsburyPS>

SUPERINTENDENT'S BLOG:
<http://shrewsburysuperintendent.blogspot.com/>

School meal information

Shrewsbury Food Service Department Information 2015-2016

Breakfast Program - A Breakfast Program is offered daily at the High School, Oak and Sherwood Middle Schools and Coolidge Elementary School before the school day begins. Breakfast is not served at the other Elementary Schools. A variety of cereals, fruits, morning breads, juice and milk are offered daily. All meals meet the USDA requirements for good nutrition. The cost of breakfast is \$1.50. Families with financial need may qualify for a reduced price breakfast at \$.30 or a free breakfast.

Lunch Program - A Lunch Program is offered daily at all schools. A minimum of four entrees are offered daily. In addition a variety of sandwiches, milks, 100% juices, fruits, vegetables and a salad bar are offered daily. All meals meet the USDA nutritional guidelines. The cost of lunch is \$3.25 at the Elementary Schools, \$3.50 at the Middle Schools and \$3.75 at the High School. Lunch Tickets left over from the 2014-2015 school year can be used at the appropriate schools.

Full Priced Prepaid Meal Plans

Elementary Schools - A Prepaid Full Price Ticket Breakfast and Lunch Plan is available for the school year. Lunch at the Elementary Schools costs \$3.25. Books of 20 -\$3.25 lunch tickets can be purchased for \$65.00. Tickets for the Elementary Schools are orange. Full Price Breakfast at Coolidge costs \$1.50. Books of 20 - breakfast tickets can be purchased for \$30.00. Breakfast tickets are pink. Breakfast

is not served at Floral, Beal, Paton or Spring Schools. To purchase tickets for both full price or reduced meals: send a self addressed stamped envelope along with your check for the number of strips or books requested to: Shrewsbury School Food Service, 64 Holden Street, Shrewsbury, MA. 01545. Checks should be made out to the Food Service Department. Tickets will be mailed back to you. Tickets are non-refundable.

Middle Schools and High School - The Meal Magic Point of Sale System is available at the Oak and Sherwood Middle Schools and the High School. This system allows parents to put money on their child's account for meal or a-la-carte purchases. Any amount of money can be added to a student's account. This system eliminates the need for cash or tickets. Cash can be used for purchases. Parents can send a check or cash with their child to give to the cafeteria cashier at their school. The cashier will add this money to the student's account. Checks should be made out to the Food Service Department. In the check memo section note the child's name whose account should be credited. To take advantage of monthly promotions offered by the Food Service Department checks must be mailed to the Food Service Department 64 Holden Street Shrewsbury, Ma. 01545. Monthly promotions cannot be applied at the schools. Checks or cash will be credited at face value at the schools.

Reduced Meal Plans

An Elementary Prepaid Reduced Price Breakfast and Lunch Ticket Plan is available for the school year. Lunch at the Elementary Schools costs \$.40. Strips of 5 lunch tickets can be purchased for \$2.00. Lunch tickets are orange at the Elementary Schools. Breakfasts at Coolidge Elementary costs \$.30. Strips of 5 lunch tickets can be purchased for \$1.50. Breakfast Tickets are pink. Coolidge is the only Elementary School serving Breakfast. Reduced price tickets can only be purchased through the mail to protect the confidentiality of those students. Parents can also opt to send \$.40 for lunch or \$.30 for breakfast in daily with their child.

Middle School and High School - The Meal Magic Point of Sale (POS) System is available at the Oak and Sherwood Middle Schools and the High School. This system allows parents to put money on their child's account for meals or a-la-carte purchases. Any amount of money can be added to a student's account. This system eliminates the need for cash or tickets. Parents can send a check or cash with their child to give to the cafeteria cashier at their school. The cashier will add this money to the student's account. Checks should be made out to the Food Service Department. In the check memo section note the child's name whose account should be credited. Parents can also opt to send \$.40 for Lunch or \$.30 for Breakfast in daily with their child.

Kindergarten Snack Program - Available to full day students. Both a snack and a beverage are delivered to your child's classroom daily. The cost of the snack and beverage is \$144.00 for the year. The snack enrollment form is posted on the Shrewsbury Home Page website at www.shrewsbury.ma.gov/schools under Food Service Department.

High School Meals to Go - An after hour meal program is available daily for students. Students must order their meal by 8AM of the day the meal is requested. Bag Meals include a sandwich, beverage, snack and fruit. Bagged Meals cost \$4.00. Order forms are available at the school store, the cafeteria and in the serving area.

Free and Reduced Breakfast/Lunch Applications - Free and Reduced price meals are available to students if there is financial need. Applications are available online at: <https://www.lunchapp.com/>. Applications must be submitted this school year by October 16, 2015 to continue eligibility. If you received a letter from the Food Service Department stating your children were eligible for free meals in school year 2015-2016 as a result of a Direct Certification from the Department of Health and Human Services for school year 2015-2016, you do not need to fill out an online application. Applications will be accepted at any time during the school year for new applicants as the need arises for families. If you need an application at any time during the school year fill out the online application: <https://www.lunchapp.com/>. Eligibility is governed by guidelines set by the Federal Government. A written notification will be sent to all families stating what program they qualify for. If you need help filling out the application, or have questions about the Free and Reduced Meal program, please call the Food Service Director at 508-841-8819 or email Beth Nichols the Food Service Director at bnichols@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us

Menus - The menu is posted on the Shrewsbury Home Page website at www.shrewsbury.ma.gov/schools under Food Service Department. The Food Service is committed to serving what is on the printed menu.

Food Service Department Contacts

Please contact the Food Service Department with any questions, suggestions, or ideas. The Food Service Department is located at Shrewsbury High School, 64 Holden Street, Shrewsbury, MA. 01545. Each school site has a manager also available to speak with you. The numbers are as follows.

Beal	841-8874
Coolidge	841-8889
Floral St	841-8723
Paton	841-8635
Spring St	841-8708
Sherwood	841-8681
Oak	841-1217
High School	841-8848

Please visit our web page at www.shrewsbury.ma.gov for forms, menus and Food Service information. Look for the "Departments" pull down menu.

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